

Google Groups

GROUNDSWELL MTG NOTES 3/27/2013

conservativenetworking

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Posted in group: **Groundswell**

GROUNDSWELL: This meeting is about message synchronization, coalitional efforts and a 30 front war seeking to fundamentally transform the nation...

[NOTES from March 27, 2013 Gathering](#)

ACTION ITEMS:

Mine the VIP Senate Vote-o-Rama on the Budget (add link to Senate votes): for scoring legislators, for educating constituents! NOTE: Contextual piece by Rick Manning (link to NetRightDaily article he put into GG) [NOTE: Andy Roth with Club for Growth promised to give us a scorecard with all the votes in it! See when that may arrive!]

1. IMMIGRATION: (a) start educating grassroots that the secret negotiations will move fast with huge consequences, (b) Rubio and vulnerable Democrats need to see what constituents know about Senate vote (insert link to vote on Obamacare and immigrant vote), (c) refine messaging in the next week on this so we can create a groundswell together, read 2 Byron York articles (insert).
2. OBAMACARE: This remains a valuable opportunity - (a) use Senate and House votes to educate constituents, (b) collect horror stories of problems, increasing premiums and (c) use hashtag or messaging – “ThanksObama!” for problems. Senator Cruz, TPP and CPR are collecting horror stories – help forward to them.
3. GUNS: (a) citizens should be encouraged to ask *their* Senators to support filibuster by Cruz, Lee and Paul (b) groups who score, i.e. NRA, should score motion to proceed to guns vote, while being mindful of votes cast on Lee amendment in Vote-o-rama (link to vote)
4. NATIONAL SECURITY: (a) need messaging help to portfolio of issues in this lane
5. ELECTIONS: (a) help recruit conservatives to run NOW in primaries, etc... as establishment and Ds are ahead of us now
6. PEREZ NOMINATION: (a) weekly coalition has started (see Tom Fitton to join), (b) this nomination bridges all aspects of conservative movement – room for all to help.
7. BOYSCOUTS: Friend the new Moms of BoyScouts Facebook page (add link)
8. TRUE THE VOTE SUMMIT: sponsor a blogger to go to mid April Houston conference
9. BENGHAZI: encourage signatures on Benghazi petition on ACT! For America site (add link)
10. NEW IDEA: STATE OUTREACH – a new outreach effort to key state leaders will be

launched; send Ginni Thomas a top state activist if you want to add states to this Groundswell outreach effort.

11. RNC AUTOPSY: See Phyllis Schlafly's essay against the GOP report; watch for CAP report on this.
12. [Rage Against the Media](#) – join this new grassroots Facebook page that does Facebook Flashmobs against the media

REPORTS:

HOUSEKEEPING REPORT for GROUNDSWELL:

Groundswell evolved out of conversations among conservative leaders after the November elections. This is the eighth meeting. Now others are asking to be included. Growth needs to be strategic; it should be made up of senior level people willing to collaborate. It is important to keep a balance of social conservatives, national security conservatives, and constitutional conservatives. Outreach has occurred to incorporate groups with extensive reach: Heritage, Heritage Action, Freedom Works, AFP, FRC and the NRA, among others. Suggestions of additional groups to be included are appreciated.

Our country is in peril. This is a critical moment needing critical leadership. We want to protect the strategic collaboration occurring at Groundswell and build on it. Please be careful about bringing guests and clear them ahead of time.

What Groundswell is not is a room of *note takers*. The goal of Groundswell is to sync messages and develop action from reports and information exchanged. Going forward there should be an action item accompanying each report. The action item should resonate with all people and include:

- Defined action [what is the action; what do we do]
- Defined target [who is the target]
- Defined message that can be used to start a groundswell

Collaboration and work beyond our own silos is important. People who are “lifting the wagon” are essential to help save this nation.

MESSAGING:

A conference call on messaging was conducted. The theme “politics over public safety” was a success. We owned the message. We also need to develop themes based on what is already being discussed.

The sequester is gold. Every ounce of wasteful public spending is an opportunity to leverage what is already in the public dialogue. Examples: the shutting down of FAA towers, discontinuing tours of the White House, while spending for limos by the VP. It is all “policy over public safety” and we should keep this theme going.

Anita will be our official liaison to the blog community. Information will be passed on in her weekly blogger conference call.

In addition, it was suggested that we use the hashtag #GSW when tweeting on items that evolve from our themes.

POLITICAL SURVEY:

SENATE:

From a conservative viewpoint, the situation in the Senate is bleak. There are 10 Senate races where it is *possible* to pick up another seat for the GOP – SD, WV, AK, MI, MN, IA, NC, AR, MT, NC. However, in some of these races there are no proven conservative candidates, in other races there are conservative thinking candidates but they do not have a reputation for fighting for the conservative cause. The best possibility of adding a conservative is in AR if freshman Rep. Tom Cotton runs.

- Need conservatives to be recruited in SD, WV
- PROMISING TO WATCH: AK: Joe Miller; MI: Justin Amash; IA: Steve King, NC: Greg Brannon

There are 3 other Senate races where Republicans should vote: NE (Heineman, who leans toward establishment), GA (Broun who would be solid!), and KY (primary challenge to McConnell, Matt Bevin may surface).

HOUSE:

There will be a special election for the SC seat. The goal is for a R to keep the seat.

There are potential open seats in GA but it is too soon to tell who will run.

It is easy to find the vulnerable seats to target. Call was made to find credible candidates to run for office. SEE PRIMARYMYCONGRESSMAN.COM: A website developed to raise awareness and enthusiasm for finding primary challenges to those members who are GOP house representatives with very liberal voting records. There are 9 House representatives currently on the website.

SCORING VOTES: The following groups score votes: Club for Growth, Eagle Forum, and Center for Security Policy. This is a powerful tactic that should be considered by all c4s.

VOTE-O-RAMA:

This is the largest number of votes to take place at one time. It provides a window into the senators' thinking on issues and is worth noting. This provides a great opportunity for accountability. A list of the amendments and votes was sent via email. An excellent summary of votes on key amendments can be found on the Freedom Works website. [\[Link\]](#) The votes on all amendments can also be found on the Senate website. [\[Link\]](#)

Follows are some highlights:

- #202: Full Repeal of Obamacare [Cruz] – All R's supported [\[Roll Call\] Link](#)
- House Budget: Almost all R's supported
- Medicare Portion [Voucher] of Ryan Budget: This vote immediately followed the House Budget vote and only 3 R's supported it (Cruz, Lee and Paul). This is probably the most important piece in the Ryan budget.
- #656: Marketplace Fairness Tax or Internet Tax - Many R's voted for this amdt.
- #263: Paul Budget – 18 R's supported.
- #471 [Cruz]: "... reducing foreign assistance to Egypt and increasing funding for the Missile Defense Agency - 25 R's supported [\[Roll Call Link\]](#)
- #702 [Cruz]: "Purpose: To Create a point of order against any legislation that would provide taxpayer funds to the United Nations while any member nation forces citizens or residents of the nation to undergo involuntary abortions." – 38 R's supported [not 45 Rs] [\[Roll Call Link\]](#)
- #292 [Rubio]: Parental notification of child interstate abortions across state lines, 48-51
- #526 [Vitter]: Voter ID – 44-54
- #338: [Vitter] Life line - Obama Phone Welfare – 46-53 [Note: Mark Pryor ad in Arkansas could be very helpful!]
- #597 [Scott]: Paycheck Protection [Prevent automatic deductions from paychecks for political activity] 43-56
- #359: [Inhofe] Climate Change vote - 47-52
- #614 [Sessions]: Healthcare For Illegal Immigrants 43-56
- #673 [Lee]: Gun Vote - 50-49, needed 60 votes to pass. [Targeted to be a test vote for the future Reid gun bill.]

ANDY ROTH to provide a spreadsheet with all these votes.

GUN ISSUE:

The strategy of the D's on the second amendment is to allow for some unsavory amendments to come forth on the gun bill in April. Expect the Senate to send equally bad legislation to the House and demand it be quickly voted on without debate. Once again, this is the D's strategy to win favor with voters in Red States and cast R's into a bad light. However, watch for attempts to add bad gun legislation as amendments to other bills. Senators Lee, Paul and Cruz sent a letter to Reid saying they will filibuster any gun legislation; this may impact the dynamics making it more

difficult to bring the Reid bill to the floor.

Two of the large gun groups are putting out a nationwide call to action encouraging their membership to contact senators and ask them to support Lee, Paul and Cruz.

Gave a speech at UC Davis instead of a debate after UC Davis unsuccessfully tried to get a speaker from the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence for their program. It seems the university could not find any gun control advocate for the event despite the fact it was being held in liberal CA. This is a good data point for where we are in the second amendment debate.

A second amendment-working group is being formed by Michael James Barton. It will meet via conference call. Phone calls will be held once a week during times of increased activity. Anyone who would like to participate can send an email to Stephanie at [REDACTED] We will also form a google group around this issue. The first call will be in the next week or two.

COURT RULINGS FOR GUNS:

MD 4TH CIRCUIT COURT RULING – Appeals court ruled that MD can deny someone a concealed and carry permit. [Read more [here](#) and [here](#)]

IL – 7th CIRCUIT COURT – IL has a gun ban on conceal and carry with some exceptions. The 7th circuit court just ruled the ban on carrying a weapon in public was unconstitutional. The same court also asked legislators to develop a new gun law. There have been other instances before the IL courts challenging the current IL conceal-carry law. This is an issue that may be decided at the Supreme Court level. IL is the only state in the Union to have no concealed carry laws.

NOTE: IL ranks at the bottom of the list for states prosecuting felons who violate federal statutes and laws prohibiting guns. Law abiding citizens in IL who understand the kill ratio on the streets of Chicago are ripe for moving forward on the second amendment.

IMMIGRATION:

Immigration is a meta-issue, an existential issue. If we lose on immigration we lose on every

other issue. The key to defeating this bill is Sen. Rubio. He can gracefully remove himself from the “gang of 8” and still save face. There are a number of issues that can provide the out.

1. Obamacare amdt: to prohibit illegal aliens and legalized illegals from receiving welfare or health care was defeated. [Yet, the entire gang of 8 voted in favor of this amendment.] The cost of welfare and Obamacare for this group is prohibitive. This vote exposes the fact that D’s are not to be trusted on their promise that illegals will be ineligible for welfare.
2. Border Security and Efficacy of Triggers: DHS last week said they have no way to measure if the border is secure. Yesterday Janet Napolitano said the border is as secure as ever and triggers are unworkable as a benchmark. [[Read more here](#)] Either scenario is contrary to the intent of the proposed legislation.
3. American jobs: The impact on American jobs and wages must be explored.

The messaging on this issue has to be “we can’t trust Obama” to enforce immigration laws after the amnesty. The other message on the issue: “don’t rush it.” “Don’t rush it” was the message in Sen. Sessions letter along with Judiciary R’s to Sen. Leahy. [[Click here](#) for the text of the letter to Sen. Leahy] Leahy has responded to the letter saying we have held immigration hearings in the past and is unnecessary.

An open letter from Black Americans to the congressional Black Caucus is circulating among conservatives and actively collecting signatures.

Leahy responded to Sessions letter asking the Senate not to rush this significant legislation.

Despite the hype, Leahy intends to rush the bill to markup and to a vote. Vulnerable D’s who voted for Obamacare amendment in the Senate Vote-o-rama need their constituents to know of this important vote and to be made responsible for their vote.

PEREZ NOMINATION LABOR SECRETARY:

The nomination cuts across all issue lines. Those concerned about government corruption and rule of law need to take notice. It is a concern for businesses. Perez turned the Civil Rights Division at DOJ into an arm of the Obama re-election machine. The [WSJ piece](#) on the corruption in Minnesota is incredible. It is the story of the use of political clout and position to undermine the law. Perez should be under investigation instead of nomination.

Besides corruption issues, there are national security concerns surrounding the Perez nomination. Perez is noted for his support of the Muslim Brotherhood organizations and Shariah. Perez presents a security threat. [Read more [here](#)]

A new coalitional effort has started; see Tom Fitton if you want to join it.

The confirmation hearing before the Senate HELP committee is expected to be held should begin on April 16.

Democrats: Harkin, Mikulski, Murray, Sanders, Casey, Hagan, Franken, Bennet, Whitehouse, Baldwin, Murphy, Warren

Republicans: Alexander, Enzi, Burr, Isakson, Paul, Hatch, Roberts, Murkowski, Kirk, Scott.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA [BSA]:

Several groups are working together to create a campaign to protect the current policy of the BSA and the boys in scouting. An op-ed piece with the signatures of Moms will go out this Friday in the official campaign launch. Moms are being brought together to carry the message. A [FaceBook page, Moms of Boy Scouts](#), is now up and running. [Please “like” the page and message to others.] There is also a push to reach other women’s groups to join the campaign which include CWA and the Rosies.

More direct action is planned for the future. The idea is to put Moms out first, expressing concerns for their kids. By Moms bringing their kids in strollers we will create visuals that will tell the story through social media [TV, Facebook and Twitter]. The goal is to bring attention to this matter and make it a grassroots issue. The Left will try to marginalize the message by making it a “hate” issue but by putting Moms with their kids out first, we will control the message. Watch for “boys vanishing from the boyscouts.”

BSA national board is scheduled to meet 3rd week of May, May 22-24th in TX.

THE AUTOPSY REPORT:

Phyllis Schlafly has written a column on the Autopsy Report in which she takes the establishment to task. [[Read it here](#)]

CAP, Wes Goodman will do a response to the Autopsy report.

There is an inside/outside effort afoot. Morton Blackwell wrote a letter to Reince Priebus [[Read more here](#)] addressing issues on the rule changes as well as on the Autopsy. He is organizing to address the rules issue. The response to the Autopsy Report by CAP will circulate in the next 5 days; it will compliment Morton's efforts. Watch for an op ed from Marjorie Dannenfelzer that will connect to the CAP report.

Priebus is sending messages to the party... if we were all gay illegal aliens, the party likes us. He is preparing the way for a change on social issues by giving a warning, "*don't go Old Testament*" and advising the party to consider what Rove said about the next nominee could speak favorably of homosexual marriage in the campaign.

The Autopsy Report is a narrative of the symptoms but does not speak to or identify the disease. Exit poll data shows that R's won on every single question related to issues but lost on the biggest question, "who *cares* about you." If we do not understand the greater messaging issue, the rest is irrelevant. We have to show we care first.

The silencing of the floor votes was a big issue at the Republican Convention. It was a horrible decision by the party. Great damage was done. But we have an opportunity right now to rebrand, to embrace the libertarian and conservative wing of the party; they need to be included in the dialogue. This is surfacing in MD specifically – see Dan Bongino's Facebook page more more. [[Click here](#)]

ADDITIONAL MESSAGING DISCUSSION ITEMS:

OBAMACARE: Messaging issues to be highlighted:

- Small businesses are not hiring
- Insurance premiums already increasing
- Faces, Faces, Faces for the message: Cruz, Tea Party Patriots, Voices on the Border are collecting stories
- Watch for June/July reports when new rates are released
- Use humor to get out the message #thanksObamaCare
- Voter Registration requirement within Obamacare

IMMIGRATION:

- Refine the message: no order-no border; no HIB reform
- Paint D's as party of no on this issue
- Message R's as party of compassion
- Protect American Workers – Sen. Sessions' theme protecting American workers and workers who are here legally. [Unions are getting on board]

NATIONAL SECURITY:

- Refine message for improved effort to build a Groundswell

GUN CONTROL:

BRIETBART – Ask Bannon to get senators on the record regarding their support [or non-support] of the Lee, Paul, Cruz filibuster. Ask other members to join. Create momentum to encourage other members' support.

AMNESTY:

Read Byron York articles that discuss closed door deals, broken promises and highlights and raises the public charge issue.

TOWNHALL: BYRON YORK: IS THE BORDER SECURE? THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS NO IDEA, MARCH 25, 2013 <http://TOWNHALL.COM/COLUMNISTS/BYRONYORK/2013/03/25/IS-THE-BORDER-SECURE-THIS-ADMINISTRATION-HAS-NO-IDEA-N1548727>

WASHINGTON EXAMINER: BYRON YORK: IMMIGRATION FIGHT STIRS DEBATE OVER FEDERAL BENEFITS, MARCH 25, 2013 <http://washingtonexaminer.com/byron-york-immigration-fight-stirs-debate-over-federal-benefits/article/2525383>

A new Rasmussen Report indicates that the majority of American voters, even amnesty supporters, want the borders secured first. [Read more [here](#)] There have been numerous promises to build a wall and secure the border since the first amnesty during the Reagan administration but no administration has followed through.

Our message should be securing the boarders not amnesty. There is no plan and no matrix to gage success.

OTHER:

OUTLAWING OBAMACARE: OK House has passed a bill protecting citizens from the unconstitutional provisions of ObamaCare. ND Governor signed a bill nullifying Obamacare. As many as 24 other states are considering legislation.

DOMA: Yesterday, conservative pro-traditional families demonstrated outside the Supreme Court. The overwhelming majority of demonstrators were primarily Korean, Blacks, Chinese and Hispanic. Again, the conclusion is that social issues is a place of unity for the RNC.

SAME SEX MARRIAGE COSTS:

There are economic costs to making same sex marriages “legal.” In France the gay community is demanding the government pay for fertility treatments and sex changes operations. Not so farfetched, in MA a judge ordered taxpayers finance a sex change operation for an inmate. [Read more [here](#)]

NATIONAL SECURITY FRAUD:

John Kerry has family ties to Iran that opens the doors to blackmail and other national security risks. Kerry’s son in law is an Iranian American with extensive family still in Iran.

DAILY CALLER: KENNETH TIMMERMAN: KERRY EXPOSES IRANIAN FAMILY TIE — AND SUBJECTS FAMILY TO BLACKMAIL, MARCH 25, 2013: <http://dailycaller.com/2013/03/25/kerry-exposes-iranian-family-tie-and-subjects-family-to-blackmail/#ixzz2Onk70za2>

COMMON THEME TO ALL AREAS REPRESENTED:

When the barriers between areas of concerns are broken down the common concerns become chaos and economic. The breakdown of the family causes chaos. It is also an economic issue.

RAGE AGAINST THE MEDIA:

A great new activist group has come to our attention, Rage Against the Media.

Please help this group expand their reach and help with Flashmobs on Facebook against the media. Their FaceBook link is: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/RageAgainstTheMedia/> Read their “about section.” This is a closed group, once you ask to be invited, you will be given access.

HASHTAGS [RED REPRESENTS NEW IDEAS]:

#GSW

#Can'tTrustObama

#Don'tRushIt

#ThanksObama!

#GOPNotListening

#PoliticsOverPublicSafety

#DoItTheRightWay [Immigration]

#SequesterLies

#GreatDivider, #ImperialPresident [for President]

Regards,

Stephanie Arje

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